

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CPR-01 IO-10 /068 W
----- 040469

P R 161738Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9453

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, US, UK, FR, UR, NATO

SUBJECT: VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: A) BERLIN 5532; B) BONN 5868; C) BONN 5751

SUMMARY: ALLIES IN BONN GROUP HAVE REQUESTED INFORMATION ON CURRENT FRG POSITION REGARDING VE DAY EVENTS WHICH MAY BE HELD IN GERMANY. FRG REP SAID ENTIRE MATTER CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION AT "HIGHEST LEVEL" OF FRG. END SUMMARY.

1. AS A RESULT OF INDICATIONS THAT BONN IS IN PROCESS OF TAKING ANOTHER LOOK AT ITS POLICY ON VE DAY EVENTS WHICH MAY BE HELD IN GERMANY, ALLIES RAISED MATTER WITH FRG REP IN APRIL 15 BONN GROUP MEETING. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU), REFERRING TO ALLIED POLICY STATEMENTS IN NATO, SAID THERE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN PRESSURES FROM SOVIETS (ABRASIMOV-WORMSER DISCUSSION APRIL 4) TO ATTEND WREATH-LAYING AT SOVIET MEMORIAL IN UK SECTOR BERLIN.

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BOISSIEU INDICATED THAT TV INTERVIEW OF FRG FONOFF

MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI (REFTTEL B) HAD BEEN TROUBLING TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY; IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO PARIS WHY THE EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS FOR NON-PARTICIPATION IF FRG OFFICIALS WERE TO ATTEND FUNCTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE HELD IN GERMANY. BOISSIEU THEN SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED FRG POSITION ON STATE EVENTS WHICH MIGHT BE HELD IN GDR AND IN ESB, AND ON EVENTS WHICH MAY BE HELD BY EES IN FRG.

2. UK AND US REPS ASSOCIATED SELVES WITH FRENCH REQUEST. US REP ALSO ASKED FOR ANY INFORMATION WHICH FRG MIGHT HAVE ON SOVIET AND OTHER EE PLANS FOR EVENTS IN FRG. UK REP (CULLIMORE) EMPHASIZED NATO INVOLVEMENT BECAUSE OF ALLIED STATEMENTS THERE ON SUBJECT. CULLIMORE REPORTED THAT HIS AMBASSADOR HAD RAISED MATTER WITH FRG FONOFF STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF ON APRIL 14. GEHLHOFF HAD RESPONDED BY REFERRING TO POSSIBLE WREATH-LAYINGS IN FRG BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN AND SAID ALLIES WOULD BE INFORMED IF FRG WERE TO ATTEND ANY SOVIET-SPONSORED EVENTS. AMBASSADOR HENDERSON REPLIED, SAID CULLIMORE, BY EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING FRG INTENTIONS BECAUSE UK WAS NOW THINKING IN TERMS OF NOT ATTENDING EE-SPONSORED EVENTS.

3. FRG REP (KASTRUP) SAID ALLIED POSITION ON VE DAY EVENTS IN GERMANY WAS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED IN BONN. HE SAID MATTER WAS HIGHLY SENSITIVE ONE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY "VERY HIGHEST LEVEL" OF FRG GOVERNMENT. THERE WAS NOT YET ANY OVERALL FRG POSITION ON MATTER. KASTRUP SAID HE WOULD REPORT REQUEST. BOISSIEU ADDED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR PARIS TO UNDERSTAND A SITUATION IN WHICH GAUS WOULD ATTEND A CEREMONY AT THE SOVIET MEMORIAL IN TREPTOW IN EAST BERLIN WHILE THE FRENCH WOULD NOT ATTEND CORRESPONDING CEREMONY AT SOVIET MEMORIAL IN UK SECTOR.

4. COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS IN THE PRESS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PLANNING WREATH-LAYINGS AT CEMETERIES IN FRG CONTAINING REMAINS OF SOVIET FORCED LABORERS AND
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POWS, AND RUMORS THAT AMBASSADOR FALIN INTENDS TO HOLD A RECEPTION ON MAY 8 OR 9. PRESS REPORTS ALSO HAVE IT THAT THE POLISH AMBASSADOR IS PLANNING A RECEPTION FOR EE EMBASSIES. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR CLEAR STATEMENT OF FRG POSITION. SHOULD EMBASSY RECEIVE INVITATION FOR EE-SPONSORED EVENT, WE WILL INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH FRG, FRENCH AND BRITISH, AND REPORT RESULTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, WORLD WAR II
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN06195
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750133-0096
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750443/aaaabnya.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BERLIN 5532, 75 BONN 5868, 75 BONN 5751
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VE DAY CELEBRATIONS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GE, US, UK, FR, UR, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006